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Haverford Professor Theorizes Kennedy Slain by 3 Snipers

A new assassination theory, suggesting that three snipers were involved in President Kennedy's murder in Dallas in 1963, is put forth by a Haverford College professor, Josiah Thompson, in a forthcoming issue of the Saturday Evening Post.

Thompson, like many previous students of the assassination, bases his theory on a study of the films made by an amateur photographer, Abraham Zapruder, who recorded President Kennedy's death.

Thompson theorizes that at least three assassins must have been involved because of the brief time that elapsed between the shots and because of his conviction that at least one shot struck Mr. Kennedy in the front of the head.

The Warren Commission, on the other hand, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald, acted alone in the murder.

As Thompson reconstructs the assassination, two snipers were stationed in buildings behind the Presidential motorcade in Dallas, while a third was in front of the motorcade on the grassy knoll in Dealey Plaza in Dallas.

The first shot, says Thompson, came from the Texas School Depository Building and struck Mr. Kennedy in the back. The second shot came from a nearby building and struck Texas Gov. John Connally in the back. The third shot, he speculates, came from the School Depository and struck Kennedy in the back of the head. A fourth shot, he believes, came from the grassy knoll and hit Kennedy in the front of the head. (The Warren Commission concluded that only three shots were fired, that the first wounded both Kennedy and Connally, that the second shot struck the President in the head, and that the third shot missed.)

Thompson's theory will be set out in greater detail in a forthcoming book. The excerpt being published in the Saturday Evening Post prompted the magazine to declare that the "case is not closed."